

## *Meat packers on strike in Alberta confront scabs, boss violence*

BY JOHN STEELE

BROOKS, Alberta—Meat packers on strike here against Tyson-owned Lakeside Packers, Canada's largest cattle slaughterhouse, are facing an antiunion court injunction and company-organized violence. The majority of the 2,100 workers, members of United Food and Commercial Workers (UFCW) Local 401, walked out October 12 and halted most production in their fight for a contract.

Workers stopped the resumption of production October 18 in the face of company efforts to bring in scabs. "In the 1980s they killed the union," said picket Morgan Dube. "Lakeside thought they could do the same thing to us, but we are hurting the company

**Continued on page 3**

## 'No choice but to organize,' say truckers in South

BY ELLIE GARCÍA

CHARLESTON, South Carolina—"I can't be scared. It ain't all about me. It's about the future, it's about my kids. If I can't take a stand they won't have anything," Kenneth Lincoln, an independent trucker at the port here, told the *Militant* October 15. He was explaining why he supports the Teamsters drive to organize port drivers. "I've been a trucker for seven years," Lincoln said. "When I started they paid \$30 to \$35 a move, and fuel was \$1.19 a gallon. They still pay \$30 to \$35 a move, and now fuel is \$3.21 a gallon. How can I support

**Continued on page 8**

## Northwest Airlines to annul all union contracts

BY NELSON GONZALEZ

ST. PAUL, Minnesota—Claiming that they are on the "brink of extinction," the Northwest Airlines bosses filed a motion in bankruptcy court October 12 to void all its contracts with labor unions at the company. In addition to laying off thousands, Northwest seeks court sanction for slashing wages and gutting pension plans.

"Time has run out," Northwest warned in its request to Judge Allan Gropper to impose a deadline on the unions to reach an agreement with management, or face an "orderly liquidation" that would result in the termination of the remaining 35,000 workers still employed.

Two days later, leaders of the Aircraft Mechanics Fraternal Association

**Continued on page 8**

## Toledo: protesters counter Nazi rally in Black community

Dozens arrested in cop riot; mayor declares curfew

BY SAM MANUEL

TOLEDO, Ohio—Hundreds of people came out October 15 to protest an attempt by a neo-Nazi group to march through a largely Black residential section of north Toledo. A leader of the racist outfit, the National Socialist Movement, said the purpose of the march—which had been announced publicly nine days earlier—was to prevent the "victimization of whites by blacks."

The mobilization by Blacks and other residents forced the cops to revoke the permit for the racist march. Police then attacked anti-Nazi protesters, causing a riot. Mayor Jack Ford declared a curfew that night.

On the day of the planned rally, a couple dozen Nazis gathered in a nearby park under heavy police protection, planning to march through the neighborhood. Several wore T-shirts with the image of a white-hooded Ku Klux Klan member and a burning cross and held signs reading, "White People Unite! Find Your Spine!" and "White

**Continued on page 9**

Toledo Blade/Allan Detrich  
Residents of northeast Toledo (above) turn out October 15 to protest attempt by cops to escort Nazis on a march through Black community. Placard carried by America's Nazi Party member (right) reads: "White Race—Stand Up and Take Back YOUR Neighborhood." Cops used tear gas later on antifascist protesters.



Toledo Journal/Jeffrey Willis

## Spotlight on California special election reflects new political situation in the U.S.

Socialist Workers campaign for working-class program, oppose antilabor initiatives

BY FRANK FORRESTAL AND BETSEY STONE

LOS ANGELES, October 17—The special election called by Republican governor Arnold Schwarzenegger is in the national and world spotlight. And the campaign is unfolding amid a new political situation in the United States, as more and more unionists, workers seeking to organize unions, and other working people look for ways to resist the employers' unrelenting attacks on wages, job conditions, and health and retirement benefits.

Politicians from around the country are campaigning in California. U.S. senators John McCain, a Republican,

and John Kerry, a Democrat, were both here last week. Major dailies and weeklies in the United States, United Kingdom, and elsewhere are running articles and opinion pieces on the November 8 vote.

Schwarzenegger announced the special election in June, a year before his term is up, aiming to push through a package of referenda. These include propositions to boost the governor's executive power to limit funding for education and other programs, and to void public employee contracts in order to cut wages and benefits. Another measure increases intervention by the

state into the unions.

At a statewide conference here October 15–16, supporters of the Socialist Workers Party ticket in California decided to wage an all-out effort the last three weeks before the vote to join other working people in campaigning to defeat the anti-working-class ballot initiatives and to explain the party's program to advance the interests of working people in the United States and around the world.

The SWP is running five candidates in local California races: in Los Angeles, Diana Newberry for City Council

**Continued on page 6**

## 'Militant' sub drive goal doubled to 3,000

BY PAUL PEDERSON

*Militant* readers sold another 300 subscriptions to the paper last week, bringing the total sold in the first four weeks of the circulation drive to 1,401. That's near the original target of 1,500 at only the mid-point of the effort.

Last week, readers of the paper in 15 cities increased their quotas, too. These now add up to 2,677—about 500 more in local projections.

Given this political response to the paper among workers—unprecedented in decades—the *Militant* has doubled the international goal of the drive to

**Continued on page 4**

### Also Inside:

Australia: rulers use Bali bombings to hit basic rights 2

Ontario smelter workers strike to defend benefits 3

Midwest drought intensifies crisis facing working farmers 5

Million More Movement D.C. rally draws 150,000 9

**Back in the 'Militant'!**

### On the Picket Line

Beginning this week, the *Militant* is reviving the "On the Picket Line" column, which has been a feature of the paper at various times since the 1940s. (See page 5.) It consists of news in brief of strikes, organizing drives, and other labor struggles for which we don't have space to publish longer articles. We urge readers to send brief reports to be included in the column by every Thursday.

# New Pathfinder Books opens in Stockholm

BY ANDREAS BERGERHEIM

STOCKHOLM, Sweden—Anita Östling welcomed participants in the September 25 opening of the new Pathfinder Books in Stockholm. The meeting celebrated the publication of *USA-politikens ansikte i förändring*, the Swedish-language translation of *The Changing Face of U.S. Politics*. It was also a sendoff for volunteers heading to the Gothenburg book fair.

"When I was 19 years old I experienced my first labor battle in north Sweden, a gigantic strike by mine workers," said Östling, a leader of the Communist League in Sweden who chaired the meeting. "It was a reaction by the miners against being treated like robots. It shocked Sweden, and the ruling social democracy, because it exposed the conditions the workers were living under. Later I became part of the process of building the proletarian party that *The Changing Face of U.S. Politics* describes."

Catharina Tirsén, editor of the Swedish translation of the book, described some of the challenges in coming up with accurate translations.

Mike Ellis, a member of the Young Socialists in the United States, also spoke. He described how YSers are throwing themselves into supporting working-class struggles like the Teamsters drive to organize independent truckers in the U.S. South and selling subscriptions to the *Militant* at plant gates, picket lines, and other labor actions. "YS members in Detroit have started a campus group that supports the Northwest Airlines strike," he said.

Other speakers included Tony Hunt,

a leader of the Communist League in the United Kingdom, and Dag Tirsén, who led the campaign to raise funds to build the new hall here.

Joel Britton, a leader of the Socialist Workers Party in the United States, said there was "more oxygen in the air," in describing the political hunger among workers in battle for the *Militant*, hundreds of whom have been subscribing to the paper every week.

Östling said there is a growing interest in the *Militant* among working people in Sweden too. "We sell more papers outside factories than from street book tables now," she stated, pointing to experiences with workers at Arlanda airport and bus drivers outside their garage.



Militant/Björn Tirsén

Dinner prior to September 25 Militant Labor Forum at new hall in Stockholm housing Pathfinder Books and offices of the Communist League and Young Socialists in Sweden. Event launched new Swedish translation of *The Changing Face of U.S. Politics*.

## Australian rulers use Bali bombings to boost intervention abroad, attacks on workers at home

BY LINDA HARRIS

SYDNEY, Australia—The Australian rulers have used the October 1 bombings in Bali, Indonesia, both to advance their imperialist interests in the region and to justify stepped-up attacks on working people within Australia.

Prime Minister John Howard's immediate response was to claim that the bombings were primarily an attack on the Indonesian government. "I think it was aimed to weaken democratic Indonesia," he said. Australian police were sent to Bali right after the bombings.

Foreign Minister Alexander Downer said that despite the latest attacks Indonesia had worked hard to fight terrorism. "We're putting an enormous number of

resources into Indonesia to assist them in combating JI," he said, referring to Jemaah Islamiah, the Indonesian group with ties to Al Qaeda.

According to the *Sydney Morning Herald*, Labor opposition leader Kim Beazley said that "Australia was not doing enough to fight terrorism in the region."

Both Liberal and Labor politicians have used the latest bombings to win support for new "anti-terror" measures agreed to recently by state governments and federal premier Howard.

At a September 27 summit, Howard and top officials of all states and territories in the country agreed to introduce state laws that restrict the political rights of working people. Howard said the new powers were needed to confront today's "very dangerous and different and threatening circumstances."

The laws will provide greater powers for police to impose house arrest with no conviction for up to 12 months, detention without charge for up to 14 days, the use of electronic tagging tracking devices, and bans on approaching certain areas or people.

Detainees will be allowed to tell family members and their employer

only that they are safe but cannot be contacted. They will be able to contact a lawyer but their communications will be monitored. The amount of information made available to lawyers of the accused will depend on each attorney's level of security clearance.

Queensland Labor premier Peter Beattie said the laws were "draconian but necessary." These bills had to be introduced at a state level because the federal government does not have the constitutional power to introduce some of the measures on its own.

Under new federal laws the attorney general can withhold information from a court, the accused, and his lawyers in "the interests of national security." Such legislation was used recently when Scott Parkin, a peace activist from the United States, was arrested after being in the country for 10 weeks. Parkin was deported September 16.

The federal government claimed Parkin was involved in "politically motivated violence." The Australian Security and Intelligence Organisation (ASIO) refused to provide any evidence to support that claim. Opposition Labor leader Kim Beazley was briefed by ASIO and backed the deportation.

# THE MILITANT

## Support strikers at Lakeside Packers!

**Meat packers in Brooks, Alberta, walked out of Lakeside Packers, one of largest slaughterhouses in Canada, in a fight for a contract between their union, the UFCW, and food giant Tyson. The 'Militant' brings you the news of this and other labor battles. Don't miss a single issue!**



UFCW members at October 15 Million More Movement rally in Washington built solidarity with strikers at Lakeside.

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Signed articles by contributors do not necessarily represent the *Militant's* views. These are expressed in editorials.

# Ontario smelter workers strike to defend benefits

BY MICHEL PRAIRIE  
AND JOE YOUNG

TIMMINS, Ontario—"We are not overpaid. Our people retire and die," said Jeff Martin, president of Canadian Auto Workers (CAW) Local 599 at the huge Falconbridge metallurgical center here. The more than 600 members of the local went on strike October 1 over the refusal by the company to commit in writing to no reduction in workers' benefits at the company's Kidd Creek facility, a seven hours' drive north of Toronto.

At the complex the company runs copper, zinc, nickel, and cadmium smelting and refining operations. Workers are exposed to toxins such as lead, arsenic, and beryllium. According to Ken Bentley, a union committee person, there are always some 125 workers on sick leave from the plant.

In the first two weeks of the strike, workers would line up about 15 cars at the entrance to the complex, each one stopping at the picket line before the driver turned back. This delayed the entry of ore-bearing trucks for hours.

On October 14, a judge issued an injunction forbidding the strikers from delaying any vehicle. We witnessed huge trucks filled with nickel ore being driven through the picket line with a very visible presence of private security guards. Falconbridge has hired a Quebec-based company to do this scab driving job. This is especially resented in a region with a high percentage of

French-speaking people.

In response to the company's move the union is planning to organize secondary picket lines in the region.

On the highway in front of the plant's entrance there is a constant flow of cars and trucks noisily honking their support to the strikers. Among those who have visited the picket line to show support are retirees from CAW Local 598 at the Falconbridge mine in Sudbury, as well as members of Local 591 from North Bay.

Meanwhile, Inco Canada announced October 11 that it is buying out Falconbridge to become the world's largest nickel producer. This move threatens to unleash a new round of job cuts.

## Meat packers in Alberta confront scabs

**Continued from front page**  
now. If you fight for your rights you're always a winner."

"We have about 1,400 on the picket line this morning," bargaining committee member Reuben Mayo told the *Militant* by phone from the plant entrance two hours after the strike began. "We are well organized. People are upbeat. The company tried to get one busload of managers through this morning but we stopped them."

On the second day of the strike the company succeeded in starting up the

## Pickets at Co-Op mine press fight for UMWA



Militant/Alyson Kennedy

Coal miners and supporters held an informational picket line October 14 at the entrance to the Co-Op mine in Huntington, Utah, to press their fight for union representation with the United Mine Workers of America.

## Teachers walk out in British Columbia

BY ROBERT SIMMS

TORONTO—Defying antilabor legislation, some 40,000 British Columbia public school teachers went on strike October 7 for a contract that would address rising class sizes and provide a wage increase. More than 600,000 students are affected by the walkout.

Teachers province-wide had voted 90.5 percent in favor of strike action two days earlier to protest Bill 12, which was adopted into law the day the strike began. It maintains existing conditions and imposes a wage freeze until June 2006. Teachers had been working without a contract for over a year.

Rallies backing the teachers were held October 11 in cities across the province. In Vancouver 2,000 teachers, students, and others joined the protest.

The courts are also being used against the teachers. A week into the strike a provincial Supreme Court judge ordered a halt to the teachers union, the B.C. Teachers Federation, providing teachers with \$50-a-day strike pay.

Some 12,000 teachers and supporters rallied at the legislature in Victoria to press their demands October 17. The strikers were joined by other public workers, including unionists on Victoria Island who walked off the job and marched in a demonstration that paralyzed downtown Victoria.

Ned Dmytryshyn from British Columbia contributed to this article.



Militant/Natalie Doucet  
Striking unionists prevent scabs from entering Lakeside Packers, October 18.

## Sprint Nextel workers walk out in four states

BY RUTH ROBINETT

WINTER GARDENS, Florida—In response to company demands for massive contract concessions, nearly 1,000 members of the Communications Workers of America (CWA) struck Sprint Nextel Corp. October 10. Almost one half of the strikers are located in central Florida. The others are in union locals in Bluff City, Tennessee; Hickory, North Carolina; and Evansville, Indiana.

"Now that we're on strike the company will throw everything it has at us, but we're standing up no matter how long it takes," said Bob Campbell, president of CWA Local 3176 in Ocala, Florida.

"This is the first Florida strike against Sprint ever," Jamie Bryant, a picket line captain here told the *Militant*. "The major issues are company demands for Sunday pay at straight time, reduced health-care benefits, and removing the cap we have to pay on insurance. As it

slaughter with about 300 line crossers that came on nine buses through a farmer's field. Several strikers were beaten up that evening when they confronted scabs being bussed out.

The bosses suspended production at the plant October 14 for the weekend while they waited for a court injunction to give police the power to enforce a labor board ruling allowing no more than 50 pickets at the plant. The Court of Queen's Bench granted the injunction the next day.

On October 17, the strikers successfully delayed the scabs from entering the company's staging site, and then stalled the buses carrying them to the plant. Pickets said 11 line-crossers came over to the union side that day.

Four days into the strike Local 401 president Doug O'Halloran suffered neck and head injuries when his car was run off the highway near the plant by two vehicles driven by Lakeside personnel attempting to serve him with legal papers. Two high-ranking company officials have now been charged by the cops with dangerous driving. O'Halloran himself was charged with "willful damage" and "possession of a weapon for a dangerous purpose," reported CBC News.

On July 20 a strike for a contract was aborted when the Alberta government imposed a 60-day "cooling-off period." At the end of September the workers approved a contract proposal from the government mediator. The Tyson bosses, however, rejected the mediator's proposal and put an inferior contract on the table.

The workers had voted to be represented by the UFCW in August 2004, for the first time since the union was decertified at the plant in a hard-fought battle in 1984.

"Job is very hell. Management is hell. There are no rights, no one cares about it," Muhammed Abduley told the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation. Abduley and the majority of the workforce are immigrants from Africa. He said he wasn't allowed time off to look after his children when his wife gave birth through a cesarean section delivery.

"When a cow falls, they come right away. When a man falls, they leave him. We should be respected," said UFCW bargaining committee member and meat trimmer Peter Jany.

David Rosenfeld and Natalie Doucet contributed to this article.

is some of the insurance choices don't have hospital service where a lot of us live." The company also wants to contract out work, cut disability benefits, and weaken seniority rights.

"The engineers' hands are tied because they [the company] won't spend the money on upkeep" for local service, added Bryant. "They don't have a maintenance program, but it's needed desperately to support the increased technology on the older copper cables."

"Now that Sprint has merged with Nextel, it's planning to spin off local phone service and walk away from rural America," explained a union flyer handed out to drivers in cars passing by. "But not before it tries to squeeze millions more in contract concessions from its employees." The total customer base for Sprint is 7.5 million, mostly in rural areas.

The company has 2.1 million Florida landline customers, with a service area

that includes portions of Osceola, Orange, and Seminole counties. A CWA news release points out that local service is the most profitable segment of the entire company and that it siphoned off \$8.7 billion in earnings from 1998 to 2003, using the money to invest in expansion of its wireless and data networks. Sprint Nextel is the country's third-largest wireless company.

The Sprint bargaining unit here covers about 500 workers, and 55 percent are in the union, pickets reported. "About 20 have joined the union since the strike started, and only a few have gone back to work," said Bryant. There was little hiring for a decade until last year, when the company hired about 100 new workers, so the majority of the workforce has 10–20 years seniority, he added. Few of the newly hired have joined the union. New employees receive about \$10 an hour compared to \$20-plus earned by higher-seniority workers, and fewer benefits.

# 'Militant,' Utah dailies press to dismiss harassment suit

BY PAUL MAILHOT

SALT LAKE CITY—The *Militant* filed its final written reply for dismissal of the C.W. Mining lawsuit October 14. On the same day attorneys for the *Salt Lake Tribune* and *Deseret Morning News* filed a joint brief also asking for discharge of the case. Presiding Judge Dee Benson is now expected to set a hearing on the motions by the three newspapers, all of which are being sued for defamation because of their coverage of the union-organizing drive at C.W. Mining's Co-Op mine in Huntington, Utah. The *Militant* is additionally charged with invasion of privacy, interference with economic activity, and conspiracy.

The C.W. Mining lawsuit was originally filed in September 2004. The list of defendants includes the United Mine Workers of America (UMWA), 16 Co-Op miners, unions and individuals who supported the miners, and newspapers that reported on what the miners had to say in the struggle against the mine owner. At the first hearing on the lawsuit in June, the judge said the company brief was insufficient and ordered their lawyers to rewrite it to describe clearly who was being sued, and what they were being sued for.

The *Militant*'s reply, filed by the newspaper's attorneys Randy Dryer and Michael Petrogeorge, states the company's lawyers made "no effort to comply" with the judge's order. The rewritten complaint is "more confusing and cumbersome than the first," adds en-

tirely new claims of defamation against *The Militant*, and provides neither the parties nor this Court with any basis to understand which of the alleged statements are defamatory and why."

C.W. Mining's "arguments about why the articles/editorials published by *The Militant* convey defamatory meaning and constitute actionable opinions, and the examples they cite, in most cases highlight the deficiencies of their claims," explained attorneys for the *Militant*. By ignoring the judge's order to clarify what the *Militant* was being sued for, C.W. Mining "further reveals that they have no good faith basis for pursuing this lawsuit."

The *Militant*'s reply also points out that "the vast majority of its published statements, particularly those in its editorials, constitute statements of opinion, rather than statements of actionable fact." Reporting on the views of individual Co-Op miners or UMWA officials that the mine is "dangerous," certain safety conditions are "inadequate," or the miners were fired because of "efforts to organize a union" cannot sustain a defamation charge. If that were so, the *Militant*'s attorneys say, then every contentious labor dispute "would become a morass of libel litigation."

If the case against the newspapers is allowed to proceed, the *Militant*'s brief says, then the mine owners "will have achieved their primary objective of making the threat of protracted and expensive litigation a reality" in the

## Sailors in Corsica and Marseille end 23-day strike



Roland Balajora

MARSEILLE, France—After 23 days on strike against the French government's plan to privatize the Corsica-Mediterranean ferry line (SNCM), sailors and shore-based workers voted 519 to 73 on October 13 to end the walkout. Prior to the vote, French prime minister Dominique de Villepin threatened to declare the SNCM bankrupt and fire its 2,400 employees if they did not return to work. The government's "final offer," of maintaining a 25 percent state share of the company, will now be put into effect. Workers (above) marched in Marseille October 4 in support of the SNCM strikers.

—MARC KINZEL

hopes of chilling the *Militant*'s and others' right to free speech and expression. The paper's attorneys say the case against the *Militant* should be dismissed with prejudice and that it should be awarded reimbursement for "all of the reasonable attorneys' fees and costs incurred in defending this frivolous and retaliatory lawsuit."

The *Salt Lake Tribune* and *Deseret Morning News*—Utah's main daily newspapers—filed a joint reply to the company. Unlike in the C.W. Mining response to the *Militant*, the company's attorneys made some attempt in their rewritten lawsuit to identify specifically what "defamatory" statements each of these newspapers was being charged

with. In reply, the dailies said the "statements at issue are opinion and/or not capable of a defamatory meaning."

For example, C.W. Mining claims the two dailies defamed the company by reporting workers were fired for trying to organize a union. The company "never explains how it defames an employer to say that it fired someone," says the *Tribune* and *Deseret News* reply. "It is obvious in this dispute, as in nearly every labor dispute, that the miners and their employer *disagree* as to whether the miners were fired or walked out."

Attorneys for the UMWA, individual Co-Op miners, and Utah Jobs With Justice plan to file their final written replies to the company on October 21.

## 'Militant' sub goal doubled to 3,000

**Continued from front page**

3,000 subscriptions and extended the effort by a week to November 20.

Here are some of this week's highlights:

"I'm going to bring this paper into work," said a worker at a nonunion coal load-out as he subscribed. "The guys at

work really need to see this. Everybody should be union."

Nine people participated in an effort to reach underground coal miners in Utah and Colorado October 14–19. As of October 17, they had sold 15 subscriptions at mine portals, truck stops, and house visits in mining communities. A high point of the effort was a sale at a power plant adjacent to the Deer Creek mine in Utah. Contract workers there snapped up 30 copies of the paper and three subscriptions during a shift change.

Two coal haulers also subscribed in mining communities. They were interested in the news on the Teamsters organizing independent truckers in the South. And both said they needed the union in their workplace to address stagnating wages and long hours.

In addition to the subs, 90 copies of the paper, and one copy each of the book *Cuba and the Coming American Revolution* and the pamphlet *The Working Class and the Transformation of Learning* were sold on the team in the West (see special offer on page 7).

Joyce Fairchild and James Haywood, *Militant* supporters in London, sold the paper at truck stops and meat plants in the region.

"At Chester a truck driver, Anita Haywood, subscribed and bought a copy of *The Working Class and the Transformation of Learning*. She said, 'You haven't got a life in this job. We can't make a living working 48 hours a week. With a decent rate we wouldn't have to work all these hours.'"

The team sold two subs to truckers, one to a meat worker, two to students at Manchester University, and two dozen

### Fall 2005 'Militant' Sub Drive September 17-November 20 Week 4 of 9

Country	Goal	Sold	%
<b>UNITED KINGDOM</b>			
London	60	37	62%
Edinburgh*	50	30	60%
UK total	110	67	61%
<b>SWEDEN</b>			
	30	16	53%
<b>UNITED STATES</b>			
New York	350	252	72%
Price, UT	80	51	64%
Pittsburgh*	100	60	60%
Salt Lake City*	45	26	58%
Boston	100	57	57%
Philadelphia	110	60	55%
Atlanta*	80	43	54%
Des Moines*	150	78	52%
Birmingham*	60	30	50%
Washington*	100	49	49%
Seattle*	100	49	49%
Newark*	270	132	49%
Miami*	120	57	48%
Chicago*	115	54	47%
Los Angeles*	185	84	45%
San Francisco*	95	42	44%
Houston*	125	52	42%
Detroit	10	4	40%
Twin Cities*	160	63	39%
<b>U.S. total</b>	<b>2,355</b>	<b>1,243</b>	<b>53%</b>
<b>CANADA</b>			
	75	39	52%
<b>AUSTRALIA</b>			
	35	14	40%
<b>NEW ZEALAND</b>			
Auckland	30	12	40%
Christchurch	20	6	30%
N.Z. total	50	18	36%
ICELAND	22	4	18%
<b>Int'l totals</b>	<b>2,677</b>	<b>1,401</b>	<b>47%</b>
<b>Goal/Should be</b>	<b>3,000</b>	<b>1,333</b>	<b>44%</b>
*raised quota			

Continued on page 8

## Socialist Workers party-building fund picks up steam towards \$90,000 goal

BY ANGEL LARISCY

NEWARK, New Jersey—The Socialist Workers Party-Building Fund has begun to pick up steam with \$9,200 sent in last week. A lot of work still needs to be done to get on schedule and collect the nationwide quota of \$90,000 by November 20. The fund helps finance the work of the Socialist Workers Party as it responds to political openings in the class struggle today—from supporting the Teamsters campaign to organize independent truckers, to organizing solidarity for striking meat packers in Alberta, to being part of stirrings in the Black community.

At the half-way point of the 10-week drive we are \$21,800 short of what is needed to be on schedule. An average of \$13,350 needs to be sent in weekly for the rest of the campaign.

Supporters of the fund around the country are holding meetings to discuss the work of the SWP and raise money for the fund. Some 20 people participated in a Militant Labor Forum here October 14 on "Building a Fighting Labor Movement Today." The program featured SWP National Committee member Dennis Richter and Young Socialists member Michael Ortega. In the week leading up to the meeting, supporters of the fund in Newark made an effort to speak to everyone who had made a pledge to get a payment and to call and get new contributions. As a result, Newark turned in \$1,500 this

### \$90,000 SWP Party Building Fund Sept 11-Nov 20: Week 5 of 10

	Pledge	Collected	%
<b>Newark</b>	<b>4,000</b>	<b>2,149</b>	<b>54%</b>
Houston	3,500	1,350	39%
San Francisco	9,500	3,345	35%
Atlanta*	5,500	1,890	34%
Los Angeles*	9,500	3,250	34%
Philadelphia	3,000	970	32%
New York*	14,000	4,241	30%
Twin Cities	4,500	1,297	29%
Des Moines	1,500	391	26%
Miami	1,700	443	26%
Salt Lake City	700	150	21%
Birmingham*	2,000	290	15%
Seattle	7,000	890	13%
Washington	3,000	320	11%
Boston*	3,300	345	10%
Chicago	5,000	385	8%
Price, UT	1,700	110	6%
Pittsburgh	3,500	120	3%
<b>Other</b>	<b>1,976</b>	<b>1,232</b>	<b>62%</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>84,876</b>	<b>23,168</b>	<b>26%</b>
<b>Goal/should be</b>	<b>90,000</b>	<b>45,000</b>	<b>50%</b>

\* raised goal

## —ON THE PICKET LINE—

### **Striking hospital workers assaulted in San Francisco**

SAN FRANCISCO—Several striking hospital workers, members of the Service Employees International Union, were physically assaulted by California Pacific Medical Center (CPMC) security personnel October 13 after a candlelight vigil at the hospital. Dietary aide Lorena Hernandez was hospitalized with abdominal injuries after being kicked to the ground. Two days later, hundreds of hospital workers and supporters attended a union rally to protest the attacks. Some 800 unionists employed by CPMC have been on the picket lines since September 13.

—Laura Anderson

### **Boilermakers fight lockout**

MEREDOSIA, Illinois—The 148 members of Boilermakers Local 484 have been locked out by the Celanese Corporation here since June 5. Celanese bought the plant, which produces highly toxic glue, resin, and

adhesives, in February. The union granted the company a 120-day extension to present a contract. Three months later, Celanese demanded up to a 33 percent cut in pay, the elimination of 20 percent of the jobs, and a reduction of health-care benefits.

When the workers asked for an extension and more information, the bosses locked them out and brought in scabs. The unionists have set up Camp Solidarity on the front lawn of a supporter who lives across the road from the plant. No union members have crossed the 24-hour picket line. A court injunction limits the number of pickets to six. But a little down the road, retirees and family members maintain another picket line every day.

—Ilona Gersh  
and Rollande Girard

### **Subway workers strike in Sweden**

STOCKHOLM—Subway workers walked out here dur-

ing the October 6 morning rush hour to protest the union-busting moves of Connex, the company that for the past couple of years has been running the privatized subway system. The unionists are members of Service and Communication Workers (SEKO) Local 119. They struck to protest the company's firing of union president Per Johannsson. Connex has threatened to sue workers if they strike again. The walkout affected traffic. Only 18 of 55 trains were running October 6.

—Dag Tirsén

### **AirTran workers join Teamsters**

More than 2,400 customer service representatives, ramp workers, and reservation agents from AirTran Airways filed with the National Mediation Board October 11 to be represented by the Teamsters, according to a union press release. The majority are based in

### **Memorial held for Alabama miners killed on job**



Militant/Clay Dennison

More than 200 coal miners, family members, and supporters attended a Miners Memorial Service September 23 to honor the 13 miners killed on that date four years ago in an explosion at the Jim Walters Resources #5 mine in Brookwood, Alabama. The meeting took place next to a monument erected in memory of the workers by the mine. Portraits of each of the deceased miners were displayed.

## Midwest drought intensifies crisis facing working farmers

BY JOE SWANSON

DES MOINES, Iowa—The crisis facing working farmers in the Midwest and other parts of the United States has intensified in face of a drought, which has devastated crops throughout the Midwest's Corn Belt region and delayed shipping on the Mississippi and Ohio rivers. In addition, two hurricanes shut down key grain exporting ports along the Gulf Coast and devastated farms in their path, and the cost of fuel and fertilizer has steadily increased.

The worst drought since 1988 in the upper Midwest is threatening the livelihoods of many working farmers in this region. It has affected all of Illinois, and parts of Iowa, Missouri, eastern Texas, and Wisconsin, and has been going on for more than six months.

The drought has dried up wells, caused insect infestations, and caused destruction of corn and soybean fields. In Illinois, the worst-hit state, all but one of 102 counties have been declared disaster zones, qualifying many working farmers for emergency government loans to help them, but this will also put them deeper into debt. A government report in mid-August confirmed that corn in Illinois—the second-biggest producer after Iowa—had suffered irreversible harm, with production down 12 percent from last year's record harvest.

"Many small farmers do not have any disaster insurance while it's likely all bigger farmers do," George Naylor, a working farmer from Greene County in central Iowa, told the *Militant*. Naylor was attending the annual 2005 Iowa Farmers Union state convention recently held in Marshalltown, Iowa.

Despite recent rainfalls, drought reached farther into the western Corn Belt. Some areas in eastern Iowa counties are running rainfall deficits of more than 12 inches since March 1.

"On top of the drought conditions, the cost of production has increased by the petroleum-based fertilizer that

has gone up by 30 percent in the last two years and diesel fuel cost has increased by 30 percent in the last year," said John Whitaker, a farmer from Van Buren County in the southeastern part of Iowa on the edge of the extreme drought area.

The low-water level caused by the drought is turning parts of the Mississippi and Ohio rivers into virtual sandbars, causing towboats and barges to run aground.

According to figures from the Association of Equipment Manufacturers, sales of farm tractors fell about 16 percent in July. John Deere expects equipment production to fall 23 percent in the fourth quarter. "Farmers

have gone into a nonpurchase mode," said Rusty Spence, sales manager at the John Deere dealership in Monmouth, Illinois.

Government "experts," however, say there's nothing wrong. "It depends on where you sit, but from a supply and demand perspective I don't think there's any jeopardy out there. From a national and global perspective [the drought is] not going to have a huge impact," said Keith Collins, the U.S. Department of Agriculture's chief economist.

Other parts of the country have also been hit by drought conditions. The month of August in New Jersey was the third driest August in more than

a century, with last month expected to rank among the three hottest Septembers, according to the National Weather Service in Mount Holly, New Jersey.

Ed Gaventa, 44, farms about 200 acres in Logan Township in Gloucester County. His farm lost most of its 20-acre pumpkin harvest because of the heat. Gaventa would usually harvest 200 bins selling at \$100 each on the wholesale market, but is ending up with seven bins, expecting to make \$19,000 less than he had anticipated. "In our business, we can't set a price," Gaventa told the *New York Times*. "We're at the mercy of what the market is going to give us."

## —25, 50, AND 75 YEARS AGO—

### **THE MILITANT**

A SOCIALIST NEWSWEEKLY/PUBLISHED IN THE INTERESTS OF THE WORKING PEOPLE

October 31, 1980

WASHINGTON, D.C.—The trial here of former FBI officials W. Mark Felt and Edward S. Miller is supposed to show that the government has cleaned up its act. The "new FBI" and the Justice Department don't spy, wiretap, burglarize, and harass people the way they used to. To prove it, they're prosecuting people for doing just that.

Felt and Miller are on trial for violating the civil rights of relatives, lawyers, and friends of people in the Weather Underground by authorizing break-ins of their homes in 1972-1973. The Justice Department, in prosecuting the two, has cast itself in the role of defender of the Bill of Rights and opponent of illegal FBI spying.

Numerous FBI documents refer to the break-ins, or bag jobs, as "illegal" and "clearly unlawful." But the defense claims that this just meant that any evidence obtained on a break-in could not be used in court—otherwise they were completely legal!

### **THE MILITANT**

PUBLISHED IN THE INTERESTS OF THE WORKING PEOPLE

NEW YORK, N.Y.

FIVE (5) CENTS

October 31, 1955

Exultant over the freeing of Emmett Till's lynchers, white supremacists throughout the South are engaging in ever bolder assaults on Negroes and unions. In Florida, union-hating racists donned their Ku Klux Klan-type hoods and broke up a CIO Packinghouse Workers union meeting with shotgun fire.

The attack on the Packinghouse Workers meeting took place on the night of Oct. 19 in the central Florida town of Umatilla. As the meeting was beginning, a car with covered license plates circled the hall four times. Then it stopped and four white men got out and put on hoods. They fired their shotguns four times through the windows of the Negro Masonic Hall, where the union meeting was being held. According to the UPWA, twelve unionists were wounded, five severely; three were hospitalized.

The meeting was part of a drive to organize the thousands of underpaid Negro citrus fruit workers.

### **THE MILITANT**

Weekly Organ of the Communist League of America [Opposition]

November 1, 1930

The socialist fatherland is thirteen years old this week. It is worth reminding those who have come to take it for granted, that the first stormy days of the Russian revolution were the days of those false prophets in the camp of the capitalists and their "socialist" assistants who predicted that the "Russian chaos" would dissolve in a few weeks into a peaceful capitalist democracy.

The capitalist class, so firmly convinced that their services as masters are indispensable to society, could not imagine the working class not only taking the state power into its own hands, but running it successfully for more than a decade and organizing a classless society. The social democrats, steeped in their parliamentary-democratic prejudices, and reflecting the hopes of the master class they really serve, refused and still refuse to give sanction to a proletariat that came to power by any means other than that of the MacDonalds, the Hillquists, the Vanderveldes, the Noskes and Muellers.

# California special election

Continued from front page

District 14 and Seth Dellinger for City Council District 10; and in San Francisco, Romina Green for City Treasurer, Laura Anderson for City Attorney, and Gerardo Sánchez for Assessor-Recorder.

## New political situation

The initiatives are at the heart of the governor's "reform agenda." Schwarzenegger has had a tough time pushing it through the state legislature in face of protests by nurses, hospital employees, and other working people—those he targeted as "special interests" during his 2003 election campaign, and who he more and more overtly singles out as unionists today. "All I can tell you is that we cannot continue on the way it has been where everyone is intimidated by the unions," Schwarzenegger said recently. "The legislators are frozen."

In face of mounting street protests by several trade unions this spring, the governor pulled back from placing on the ballot an initiative to privatize pensions of public employees. The California Nurses Association has organized sustained protests against Schwarzenegger's attempt to roll back a state law setting a 5-to-1 patient-to-nurse ratio, forcing him to shelve the plan for now. The greater the governor's demagogic about "kicking the butts" of the nurses, teachers, and other working people opposing his plans, the more popular their protests have become among workers, farmers, youth, and layers of the middle classes.

This resistance is a registration of a new situation in politics in the United States and other industrially developed capitalist countries. Independent truckers at ports across the East Coast organizing to win union protection as Teamsters; coal miners in Utah fighting to win recognition as a local of the United Mine Workers; airline mechanics resisting union-busting by Northwest; Machinists who pushed back Boeing's efforts to cut pension and health benefits; working people who organized to assist each other in face of the capitalist-caused social catastrophe in New Orleans and across the Gulf Coast—these are examples of this political shift.

Working people such as these, as well as youth attracted to their struggles, are increasingly open to working-class political explanations of why the bipartisan war party in this country—the

great majority of both Democratic and Republican officeholders—continue to expand military operations and preparations for new conflicts abroad, as they simultaneously escalate assaults on workers, farmers, and the labor movement at home.

"Given the changes in politics today," said SWP city council candidate Diana Newberry, "we can gain a wider hearing for working-class demands that our class, our unions, our allies among farmers, and young people need to *organize and fight to win*—on strike picket lines, union-organizing drives, and street protests and demonstrations.

"More and more workers and farmers will begin recognizing that we can change the economic, social, and political conditions under which we work and live," the SWP candidate said. "And that in the process we can transform ourselves. That's what a fighting union movement can and will begin to change."

One measure of this shift is the receptivity among workers to the *Militant*. Among other questions discussed at the California meeting was a proposal to increase the socialist newsweekly's international subscription goal from 1,500 to 3,000 (see article on front page). A few days later the Los Angeles and San Francisco branches of the SWP voted to increase their goals, respectively, to 185 and 95 subscriptions this fall.

"It's been a long time since we've doubled our goal right in the midst of a subscription drive," pointed out Harry Ring, an SWP campaign supporter in Los Angeles and a more than 60-year veteran of the socialist movement. The meeting needs to take note of what this reflects about politics and the party's work, he said.

## Schwarzenegger's 'reform agenda'

The star of *The Terminator* and other Hollywood action movies became governor two years ago through another special election, when Democratic Party governor Gray Davis was recalled. Since then Schwarzenegger has sought to ride the momentum of that electoral victory to accelerate the employers' offensive already unfolding during Davis's shortlived administration and that of prior Democratic and Republican governors.

Recent articles in the big-business press have questioned "the gubernatorial's" ability to succeed in passing the

## First Book Fair opens in Equatorial Guinea



Militant photos by Martín Koppel

MALABO, Equatorial Guinea, October 17—The First Equatorial Guinea Book Fair opened today in this capital city. The event, held under the banner "To Read Is To Grow," is taking place at the Malabo campus of the National University of Equatorial Guinea, the fair's sponsor. University rector Carlos Nse Nsuga welcomed the more than 200 students, teachers, and others present, highlighting the significance of holding the first-ever book fair in this country on Central Africa's west coast. Spanish is the main non-African language used in the country, which was a colony of Spain until 1968. On the platform were (top photo, from left) Pedro Ndong Asumu, vice rector of the campus in the city of Bata; Carlos Nse Nsuga; Joaquín Mbane, the country's vice minister of education; Cuban ambassador Víctor Dreke; Hwangbo Ung Bom, ambassador of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea; and Trinidad Morgades, vice rector of the university in Malabo. The four-day fair includes book presentations, seminars, poetry readings, and book sales.

measures he is campaigning for.

"The governor's ambitious reform agenda is in peril with three months to go before a November special election and he's taking hits from all sides," said an article in the August 1 *Wall Street Journal*. But the daily's editors counseled the governor to persist.

"As perilous as his political situation looks, Mr. Schwarzenegger overcame much longer odds in pulling off his 2003 recall victory by appealing directly to the people," the *Journal* said. "And the battle is worth having. Even if he lost one or more of the initiatives on the ballot this November it wouldn't be as damaging as losing the belief his core voters have that he is a strong leader."

Schwarzenegger and his backers are banking on a relatively low turnout in a year with no major federal or state offices on the ballot. The very character of the special election—a plebiscite supposedly putting issues "directly in the hands of the people"—actually increases the weight among voters of professionals, others in the middle class, and layers of workers most open to middle-class illusions promoted by the capitalist rulers.

"So-called plebiscitary democracy damages the interests of working people," said Argiris Malapanis, SWP national campaign director, at the California Socialist Workers conference. "In periods of growing economic and social crises and spreading war preparations such as today, it will be used more often—even if hesitantly—by the political representatives of the proper-

ties classes to maintain the stability of capitalism and of the two-party system through which they rule."

If the governor succeeds in passing even one of the measures he is pushing, it will be a victory for the anti-working-class offensive of *both* the Republican and Democratic parties in California and nationwide, said Joel Britton, an SWP National Committee member, at the meeting.

## Measures restricting unions

Proposition 75 in the Schwarzenegger package of initiatives prohibits public employee unions from contributing dues money to political campaigns without prior "written consent" of each individual union member every year. It requires these unions to submit records to a Fair Political Practices Commission, which would oversee the use of dues funds for political contributions.

A similar measure, Proposition 226, which would have imposed such requirements on *all* unions in California, was narrowly defeated in 1998. Schwarzenegger threw his support behind "Prop 75" at the Republican state convention in mid-September.

"Proposition 75 would impose greater intervention by the government in the unions," said Newberry, who is a meat packer. "It would tie public workers' unions in red tape. We are for the independence of the trade unions from the capitalist state, not just on a federal level but state and local as well. We urge working people and others to vote no."

Proposition 74 is also a direct attack



Diana Newberry (right) Socialist Workers Party candidate for Los Angeles City Council District 14, campaigning October 1 against passage of Proposition 73.

on the union movement. It increases probation from two to five years for teachers, librarians, and other certified school employees from kindergarten to Grade 12. And it makes it easier for school boards to fire teachers.

"We call on working people to defeat this proposition too," Newberry said. "Labor should campaign to end probation for all workers, including those in the classroom."

"The United Mine Workers union has set an example here," Newberry explained. Workers join the union the first day they are hired in a UMWA-organized company, with no probation. "That's an essential step to enforce safety and defend job conditions in any workplace," she said, "be it a classroom, a coal mine, or a packing house or other factory."

#### Strengthening power of executive

The Socialist Workers Party is also calling on working people to vote no on propositions 76 and 77, also central to the California governor's agenda.

These initiatives allow the governor under "fiscal emergencies" to reopen state contracts with public employees and cut wages and benefits. Proposition 76 also grants the governor substantial new authority to cut state spending.

Proposition 77 takes away from the legislature, an elected body, the power to draw up electoral districts and gives this power to a panel of three retired judges, a body to be appointed by "legislative leaders."

These initiatives strengthen the power of the executive branch of the government. The bipartisan war party considers such centralization of power necessary—from the White House, to governors' and mayors' mansions across the country—in order to advance U.S. capital's exploitation and oppression of working people at home and abroad.

"The U.S. rulers have increased such centralization substantially since the victory over both their imperialist rivals and their allies during World War II," said Malapanis at the California state conference. "And they are seeking to accelerate that strengthening of executive authority—including the power of the armed forces and the cops—as they enter the opening stages of depression conditions and expanding wars on a world scale for the first time since the 1930s."

Malapanis pointed out that propositions 76 and 77 contain elements, even if still small and embryonic, of what Marxists have called "Bonapartism." This refers to the tendency of capitalist ruling classes, in face of deepening social crisis and militarization, toward a strengthened executive power that presents itself as "standing above class interests," as it organizes to stabilize the dominance of the ruling class.

That's good reason for working people in California, and the world over, to oppose these initiatives, the state meeting decided.

#### Woman's right to choose abortion

SWP campaign supporters have been joining with others to defeat Proposition 73, which would require parental notification and a 48-hour waiting period before a woman under 18 can get an abortion. "This is an outright attack on a woman's right to choose abortion, to control her own body," said Newberry.

Schwarzenegger continues to present himself as a "pro-choice Republican" who backs *Roe v. Wade*, the 1973 Supreme Court decision decriminalizing abortion, and he is not campaigning for Proposition 73. The governor nonetheless calls for a "yes" vote on the initiative.

"I wouldn't want to have someone take my daughter to a hospital for an abortion or something and not tell me," he told a reporter earlier this year. "I would kill him if they do that."

"Most unions in this state are not acting on the reality that defending a woman's right to choose is a central question not just for workers who are female," said Newberry, "but for the unity and fighting power of labor. Our campaign is urging the entire union movement to join in the effort to defeat this antiwoman and anti-working-class measure."

The California Nurses Association is doing so. It has publicly opposed Prop 73, pointing out that "the initiative is a back door attempt viewed by its proponents as a first step to eliminate the constitutional right to the option of abortion and would have a disproportionate effect on limiting medical options for the most impoverished young women."

#### Nationalize the energy industry

Socialist Workers adopted a "not voting" position on Proposition 80—"The Repeal of Electricity Deregulation and Blackout Prevention Act." This measure is backed by the Democratic Party and other liberal forces, as well as their radical followers. Its supporters claim it will provide relief from rising energy prices and breakdowns of the electrical grid by requiring the state to organize "competitive bidding" among energy providers.

"This measure is a fake and a fraud," said Joel Britton at the California socialist campaign conference. "Manipulating the capitalist market will neither result in lower rates nor eliminate the danger of blackouts." Demands for more "regulation" of the energy monopolies are designed not to benefit the majority but to protect the profits of the wealthy families who control them, Britton said.

"We demand that these energy trusts open their books," he said. "Working people have a right to know the 'business secrets' of these powerful monopolies, to expose the behind-the-scenes deals and swindles, and to get a true picture of the national income—produced by the working class—pocketed by the capitalists who own them."

"We call on the labor movement to fight to nationalize the energy and power companies!" Britton said. "Take them out of private hands and run them as public utilities for the benefit of the majority, under workers control!"

"That's our answer to Proposition 80."

#### Universal, lifetime health care!

The Socialist Workers campaign in California is responding to two other initiatives on the November ballot by explaining the party's demand to nationalize health care, at no cost, for all—from regular preventive medical checkups, to all forms of treatment, hospitalization, and prescriptions.

Propositions 78 and 79 present alternative plans to provide drug discounts for people below a certain income.



Getty Images

Nurses demonstrate September 22 in Oakland, California, against antiunion ballot measures backed by California governor Arnold Schwarzenegger.

Prop 78 invites pharmaceutical firms to offer drug discounts on "a voluntary basis" with no government penalties if they choose not to do so—something opponents of the initiative point out could be done by any drug company right now, with or without such a law! The SWP campaign is urging working people to vote no on this measure.

Proposition 79 would set needs-based criteria—estimated at incomes below \$38,000 for individuals, or \$77,000 for a family of four—for those not covered by Medicaid or other health insurance to receive a prescription discount card from the state Department of Health Services for a \$10 annual fee.

Prop 79 is backed by most unions in the state, as well as many liberal political organizations. The California Nurses Association, while actively opposing Prop 78, has taken no position on Prop 79. "Our chief concern about 79 is that it doesn't go far enough," said a nurses' union spokesperson in late September.

As the SWP state conference was discussing these two propositions last weekend, millions of working people across the state and around the coun-

try were absorbing the devastating implications of Delphi Corp's recent decision to slash contractual health benefits for current and retired workers—an accelerating trend across more and more companies and industries.

Socialist Workers decided to take no position on Prop 79. Wendy Lyons, a Los Angeles-area supporter of the party's ticket, pointed to the importance of campaigning for a nationalized health system to provide universal medical care for all.

SWP candidates and campaign supporters point out that working people, through the transformation of nature by our social labor, create all wealth. From that wealth, health care—as well as education, workers compensation, and a secure retirement pension—can and must be a lifetime right for every human being.

Universal social security of that kind is a precondition not just to stop the decimation of workers' and farmers' blood and bone, not just to prevent our class from being torn apart. It is the essential starting point for labor solidarity, and for the human solidarity that grows out of it.

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### Capitalism's Long Hot Winter Has Begun In New International number 12

Today's sharpening interimperialist conflicts are fueled both by the opening stages of a world depression—what will be decades of economic, financial, and social convulsions and class battles—and by the most far-reaching shift in Washington's military policy and organization since the late 1930s, when the U.S. rulers prepared to join the expanding Asian and European wars, transforming them into World War II. Class-struggle-minded working people must face this historic turning point for imperialism, this cataclysmic crisis for "the West" and for "Christendom." And draw satisfaction and enjoyment from being "in their face" as we chart a revolutionary course to confront it.



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by Jack Barnes

# 'No choice but to organize,' say truckers in South

**Continued from front page**  
a family on that?"

Owner-operators face not only rising fuel prices but increasing maintenance costs. In some cases, independent truckers have to hire workers to unload large containers with the expense coming out of flat fees they get from the companies they sign a contract with. Leasing agreements allow these companies to determine what they pay drivers for a trip. While the bosses have been collecting fuel surcharges from customers, these funds never get to the drivers.

Lincoln was one of more than 100 owner-operators who attended a meeting the Teamsters organized here for port drivers October 15 to discuss the union-organizing campaign. Also attending were truckers who support the union from Miami, and Savannah, Georgia.

After the Teamsters opened a hiring hall in Miami September 17, more than 500 independent truckers signed up with the union and are being dispatched to jobs in the area. This initial success has given impetus to expand the organizing efforts elsewhere along the East Coast.

The meeting was held at the headquarters of the International Longshoremen's Association (ILA), where the Teamsters will be setting up a hiring hall.

Larry Lee, a port trucker who came up from Savannah, has been driving since 1972. "I've been at it for a long time," he said. "In 1997 we shut down

the port for five weeks. I lost my job over it. We don't want to take what's not ours, but what is ours."

Referring to the union-organizing effort in his city, Lee said, "In Savannah the drive is coming along."

Jim Stewart, an international representative of the Teamsters Port Division, described the challenges the union is facing in organizing independent truckers in Charleston and Savannah, where about 4,000 owner-drivers work. "Everyone is fighting us," he said, "the shippers, the steamship companies—especially the trucking

companies." In spite of this, Stewart added, the Teamsters are planning to open hiring halls here and in Savannah sometime before the end of the year.

Anti-trust laws prevent independent truckers from joining a union. For that reason, in order to join the Teamsters owner-drivers have to terminate existing contracts with shipping firms and sign up with the union as employee owner-operators. The union then uses its hiring hall to dispatch the new members to jobs with companies that have registered with the Teamsters.

Stewart explained that port drivers

would face an additional challenge October 17 at Port Wando. In the name of "homeland security," the containers coming off ships will be scanned after truckers pick them up, he said.

"Time spent waiting in line will be unpaid time," said Stewart. "There will be more back-ups, all put on the back of the trucker." This will add further incentive for drivers to organize, he added.

Stewart encouraged all interested drivers to contact the union, which can be reached here at 1142 Morrison Drive, Charleston, SC, 29403. Tel: (843) 853-5080.

## Northwest Airlines to void all union contracts

**Continued from front page**

(AMFA) announced they would place the company's latest concession demands to a vote by the striking airline mechanics. The company now wants the unionists to agree to a layoff of nearly 4,000 mechanics—90 percent of its members—while offering those whose jobs are being eliminated just four weeks' severance pay, down from a pre-strike offer of 26 weeks.

Northwest's latest proposal includes jobs for only about 500 of the striking mechanics, and up to 580 for those who have replaced the strikers. Northwest has already outsourced the jobs of all striking cleaners and custodians, who are also members of AMFA.

In announcing that they are putting the company's offer up for a vote, AMFA negotiators in a written statement explained that "when you look at the details you will be hard pressed to find anything good."

"Their offer is audacious and unrealistic," AMFA president O.V. Delle-Femine, told the *New York Times*. "I think what it does is it solidifies our strikers and it shows it's worth staying out because of what the company is offering." Voting is expected to take two weeks.

Some 4,400 AMFA members walked

out August 19 over Northwest Airlines' demands for a 25 percent pay cut, a pension freeze, and the layoff of half the striking mechanics. The company filed for bankruptcy four weeks later, and since that time has further upped its demand for job cuts.

The striking unionists continue to picket at the Twin Cities airport and at Northwest maintenance facilities. Beginning with the Halloween weekend, trade unionists and others will be invited to join the mechanics on expanded picket lines.

## 'Militant' sub drive goal up to 3,000

**Continued from page 4**

copies of the paper. Overall 33 subs were sold in the United Kingdom last week, nearly doubling their total.

"I agree they should jail the cops who beat him," said Howard Allen, 70, of New Orleans, referring to the cops who brutalized Robert Davis in that city's French Quarter October 8. "They should fire them all starting with the mayor."

Allen, a retired seaman, met *Militant* reporters a week after the hurricane struck and subscribed. When Anthony Dutrow and José Aravena, Socialist

Workers Party candidates for mayor and city controller of Houston, respectively, returned October 14, Allen asked for a *Militant* bundle to sign up others for subscriptions. "They need this paper," he said of his neighbors. After starting with a bundle of half a dozen copies, he sent in an order for another 20.

Readers who would like to follow Allen's example can purchase a bundle for resale at the rate of \$.70 per copy. A batch of subscription cards will be included. Please call us or send a note (see information on page 2).

## —MILITANT LABOR FORUMS—

### MINNESOTA

#### St. Paul

**Women and the Iron Mines: A Review of the Film "North Country."** Speaker: Ilona Gersh, founding member of Women's Committee, USWA Local 1938 at Minntoc Mine; SWP. Sun. Oct. 30. Brunch 1 p.m.; Program 2 p.m. Donation: \$10 (\$5 program only). 113 Bernard St. E, West St. Paul. Tel: (651) 644-6325.

### WASHINGTON

#### Seattle

**Change in Political Situation in United States—Workers Increase Resistance to Bosses' Offensive.** Speaker: Olympia Newton, Young Socialists and SWP National Committee. Sat., Oct. 29, Dinner 6:30 p.m.; Program 7:30 p.m. 5418 Rainier Ave. South. Tel: (206) 323-1755.

### ICELAND

#### Reykjavík

**100 Years since 1905 Revolution in Russia.** Film showing of *Battleship Potemkin*. Fri., Oct. 28, 7:00 p.m. Skólavördustigur 6b. Tel: 552-1202.

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All Imperialist Troops Out of Iraq! Oppose

## —CALENDAR—

### ILLINOIS

#### Chicago

**The Truth about Venezuela.** Speaker: Martín Sánchez, Consul General, Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela. Fri., Oct. 28, 7 p.m. Donation: \$5. 1808 W. 103 St. Sponsor: South Side Venezuela Solidarity Committee. Tel: (773) 264-0851.

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## EDITORIAL

# Won't let them turn back the clock

The approach of the ruling class is to... protect the rights of the fascists while at the same time using fascist forces to try to keep others from exercising those rights. One of the forces used to implement this is that most malevolent of all the instruments of capitalist rule, the police forces. The police structure is of a character that makes it a breeding ground for fascists....

The line of the police is to defend the exercise of the formal democratic rights of the fascists, on the one hand, and not to "see" the violations of the democratic rights of the fascists' victims. Meanwhile, the cops take full advantage of any violation of bourgeois-democratic law that the antifascists may commit. In any kind of confrontation between antifascist and fascist forces, the basic line of the cops is to protect the fascists in any way they can and to join in the victimization of the antifascists.

—Farrell Dobbs, May 6, 1975

These remarks made 30 years ago by a leader of the Socialist Workers Party who helped lead the Teamsters organizing battles in the 1930s—confronting antiunion frame-ups and fascist goons in the process—aptly describe the reasons behind the October 15 police riot in Toledo.

"Not on our streets!" was the message sent by hundreds of young Blacks and other residents of northeast Toledo when the fascist National Socialist Movement attempted to march through the Black community there under police escort. The counter mobilization against this rightist provocation struck a blow for all working people.

Faced with a rapidly growing protest, city of-

ficials and the cops cancelled the fascists' permit to march and forced them to leave. The cops then took advantage of the presence of gang members to justify their assault on the antifascist protesters. Responsibility for the violence lies squarely with the police.

City officials now say they'll try to prevent "hate groups" from assembling in residential areas in the future. The real aim of such moves is to shut down space for working people. The labor movement should oppose any such steps and call for releasing those arrested October 15.

The call by the handful of Nazis to rally "whites" to take back "their neighborhood" fell on deaf ears. This registers the irreversible changes in attitudes among working people that have their roots in the gains of the movement for Black rights in the 1960s and '70s. That consciousness has been deepened by subsequent battles for affirmative action and for unionization. It will be further advanced in current and coming struggles as workers stand up together to the intensifying assaults by the bosses on our jobs, wages, and very conditions of life.

The rebellion in Toledo took place on the same day 150,000 people, overwhelmingly Black, rallied in Washington at the Millions More Movement action. It was the largest mobilization of African Americans in a decade. Both events are further registration of a change in the political situation in the United States—a greater readiness to mobilize in the streets to defend the interests of the working class and change the relationship of class forces in the process. A shift that bodes well for working people.

## Toledo: protesters counter Nazi rally

Continued from front page

Race—Stand Up and Take Back Your Neighborhood."

"We read about the Nazis planning to march in the newspaper," said Aaron Curry, 25, a mechanic in a glass factory. "They were trying to get people not to protest, but we weren't going to let them [the Nazis] march in our place."

Curry was referring to "Erase the Hate," an event organized at a nearby senior center. Drawing about 200 people, it included speeches by Mayor Ford, a Democrat, other politicians, and religious and community figures who were urging residents to ignore the racists and allow them to march through the community.

But that was not to be.

As word of the rally spread, a counterdemonstration that had been called days before the rightist action swelled to what press reports said was at least 600 people. "When it started there were a few of us and when word got around it just grew," Curry said. "The streets were full of people and the police panicked."

Judging that the relationship of forces was against them, the police cancelled the Nazis' permit to march and forced them to leave. The cops then attacked the protesters, residents say.

"The police made this happen," said Prentice Bishop. "If the police had just simply left, none of this would have taken place."

Art Perez, 20, agreed. "Yeah, we were still on the block after they said the racist group was gone," he stated. "People were still angry and expressing themselves but there wasn't any violence."

"Nothing happened until the police started using tear gas and firing pellets at us," said Curry. He described how the cops rode into the crowd with horses. "The police got out of hand. A woman got maced. They even beat up a postman," he said.

According to press reports, 114 people were arrested. City officials are seeking to use the police riot to restrict the right of organizations they deem "hate groups" to assemble in residential areas. Bishop, Curry, and Perez were among some 40 residents who confronted mayoral candidate Carleton Finkbeiner, also a Democrat, at a press conference outside the remains of Jim and Lou's

Bar October 18. The bar, a past haunt of powerful politicians, among them former president James Carter, was looted and burned. Finkbeiner blamed gang members for the violence.

"This wasn't about the gangs," said Antwoine Wilson, 21. "The cops just took advantage of our presence. We live here, this is a Bloods neighborhood," he said. "But all the gangs were here, Bloods, Crips, Stickney Street, and nothing happened between us because we were together in stopping the racists from marching here."

"This was about all we have gone through," said Joe Toyer, 20. Toyer, like most residents interviewed, did not think the bar should have been burned down. "It became a focus of circumstances," Toyer said. "It's hard to find a job. When you do they don't pay nothing and it's usually temporary. The politicians keep saying they are getting all this money in here to rebuild the city but none of it has come our way."

"The police are always pulling us over for nothing and asking for IDs," said Bishop, who delivers pizzas. "They act like they don't know me but they are always in the pizza place eating."

"There is a gang problem here but it is exaggerated," said Stan Sherwood, 81, who is white. Sherwood said he thought the root of the problem is poor education and lack of good jobs.

"This is a mixed neighborhood and everybody got along until the Nazis came," Sherwood said. "I have neighbors who are Black, white, and we are getting some Spanish moving in. There haven't been any problems here before and I have been here over 50 years."

The fascist outfit had announced plans for the march October 6 after an article appeared in the *Toledo Free Press* in which local resident Thomas Szych complained about Black gangs in his neighborhood. Szych's neighbor, Amelia Gray, told the *Militant* that he has filed police complaints against every Black family on the block.

"What I read in the paper about racial conflict doesn't tell the whole story," said Frank Shultz, 54, an auto mechanic who is white and has lived in the neighborhood for 20 years. "The neighborhood is changing and some people may not like that but they are just a handful."

## Millions More Movement rally draws 150,000



Militant/Paul Pederson

Howard University contingent at October 15 Washington rally

BY PAUL PEDERSON

WASHINGTON—"It is so powerful to come to a place where so many people who look like me and think like me are gathered," Shaniyya Pinckney, 20, a student at the State University of New York at New Paltz, told the *Militant* at the Millions More Movement rally here. "When I heard about it, I felt I had to be a part of it. I was 10 when the Million Man March occurred."

The October 15 rally was a 10th anniversary tribute to that 1995 event, which drew over 800,000 mostly Black men, according to a Boston University study.

The transit authority estimated that the 10-year commemoration drew nearly 150,000 people. As the 12 hours of speeches and musical performances played over large television screens down the length of the National Mall, those present alternated between listening to the program and mixing it up with others.

Most here were working people, overwhelmingly African-American. "People are trying to get together and find a way out of the situation we are in. Everyone knows things are screwed up but we don't yet know how to change it," said George Creamer, 26, a construction worker from southern New Jersey. "When we stop talking just about race and start talking about class, that's when this movement will become really dangerous."

"For me this is an opportunity for people to unify behind poor people who have been run out of their own state and own city for capitalistic greed," said Darlene Jones, a New Orleans resident who lost her home in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina and is currently living in a shelter in Chicago.

"We are telling people not to give their money to the Red Cross because we're not seeing the money," Jones said. The shelter's residents have established their own fund, she explained, to distribute the monies equally among the residents.

A group of United Food and Commercial Workers (UFCW) members leafleted to build support for the strike against Tyson in Alberta, Canada (see front-page article). "We only wish that more people could have attended the rally today," said Don Cash, president of the UFCW Minority Coalition. "As we were rallying working people on strike against Tyson in Alberta are being beaten up and abused and refused their right to freedom of speech, freedom of association, and their right to organize."

Joan Menzies carried a sign with a photo of her son, Rohamad, which read, "THE CRIME, being Black in America, THE PUNISHMENT, Life + 56 Years in Prison." Framed up 14 years ago for armed robbery, her son received that sentence from a Virginia court. Menzies and her family were circulating a petition to demand he receive parole.

Speakers included scores of Democratic Party politicians, religious figures, artists, and academics. Russell Means from the American Indian Movement (AIM) spoke, calling for the release of framed-up AIM leader Leonard Peltier.

A videotaped message from Ricardo Alarcón, president of Cuba's National Assembly, was part of the program. Alarcón pointed to the offer of the Cuban government to send 1,500 doctors to New Orleans to provide care to those affected by the hurricane. Washington refused.

Alarcón then mentioned the case of the Cuban Five—revolutionaries currently locked up in U.S. prisons on frame-up charges that include conspiracy to commit espionage for Havana. The convictions of the five were overturned by an appeals court in August, but they remain in prison. "They also fought for the African peoples," Alarcón said. "They were in Angola fighting against apartheid." Three of the five were among the hundreds of thousands of Cuban volunteers who answered the call to come to the defense of Angola when it was invaded by the racist South African regime in the 1970s and '80s.

Louis Farrakhan, head of the Nation of Islam and the initiator of the event, gave the closing speech. One of the central themes of his 80-minute speech was that capitalism is the road toward freedom from oppression for the Black nationality. "Suppose we pooled some of the money we spend foolishly," he said. "We could set up factories in Africa and the Caribbean. That is a labor market that's a little cheaper than labor here.... Africa can be a source of shoes and clothing and lots of things that we might not be able to make in America successfully."